

Table 2. Association of Marabou Storks with large mammals (habitat indicated)

Date/time	Number of birds observed
14 May 1988 (15:45 hrs)	6 birds with mixed herds of Impalas, Wildebeests and Zebras. Spotted grassland.
14 May 1988 (16:00 hrs)	5 birds with a heard of Giraffes (6). Spotted grassland.
18 May 1988 (16:00 hrs)	5 birds with Impalas. Spotted grassland.
19 May 1988 (16:30–17:30 hrs)	9 birds with mixed herds of Wildebeests, and Zebras and one male Impala. Spotted grassland.

## References

- HOUSTON, D. C. 1980. Interrelations of African scavenging animals. *Proceedings of the V Pan-African Ornithological Congress*: 307–312.
- KAHL, M. P. 1966. A contribution to the ecology and reproductive biology of the Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) in East Africa. *Journal of Zoology (London)* 148: 298–311.
- PERRINS, C. M. & T. R. BIRKHEAD 1983. *Avian ecology, tertiary level biology*. Glasgow and London: Blackie & Sons Ltd.
- POMEROY, D. E. 1980. Aspects of the ecology of Crowned Cranes *Balearica regulorum* in Uganda *Scopus* 4: 29–35.
- RASA, A. 1980. A case of mammal/bird mutualism: or 'horning in'. *EAHNS Bulletin* 1980: 44–45.
- TYLER, S. J. 1980. Notes on feeding habits of Pied and Indian House Crows *Corvus albus* and *splendens*. *Scopus* 4: 44–45.
- TYLER, S. J. & S. J. ORMEROD 1986. Interactions between resident and migratory wagtails *Motacilla* spp. in Ethiopia. An ecological conundrum. *Scopus* 10: 10–19.

Charles Mlingwa, Department of Zoology and Marine Biology, University of Dar es Salaam, Box 35064, Dar es-Salaam, Tanzania

*Scopus* 14: 23–24, May 1990

Received 31 August 1988

## Long life-span and sedentariness of birds in North Nandi Forest, Kenya.

Survival in tropical passerines is known to be relatively high (Fry 1980, Brown & Pomeroy 1984, Urban 1975). Longevities of ten years or more have been recorded for passerines in Malawi (Dowsett 1985, Hanmer 1987, Piper 1987), while a remarkable twenty-year-old Cameroon Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris* has been recorded in Kakamega Forest (Zimmermann 1986). A Rufous Thrush *Stizorhina fraseri* was mist-netted by Christine Dranzoa at Erika Forest, Uganda 15 years after it was ringed (C. Dranzoa pers. comm.).

The National Museum of Kenya and the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, undertook joint expeditions to the North Nandi Forest in western Kenya in 1978 and 1979. In

1979 about 600 birds were ringed and released in the southern part of the forest near Chemisia (at about 1° 15'N, 35° 00'E). From 24–29 September 1988 this site was revisited and 131 individuals were captured. Of these 131, three were birds originally captured between 18–23 November 1979 and were thus at least nine years old. They were a female Brown-chested Alethe *Alethe poliocephalus*, recaptured 100 m from the original site together with a male; a male Banded Prinia *Prinia bairdii* recaptured 150 m from the original site, which had been nearer the forest edge; and a male Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* recaptured within 30 m of the original site. All three birds were in adult plumage when first caught in 1979. They had changed little in weight between the two captures (Brown-chested Alethe 30.0 g in 1979 and 1988, Banded Prinia 14.0 g in 1979 and 13.0 g in 1988, Red-headed Bluebill, 25.5 g in 1979 and 28.0 g in 1988, when the crop was heavily filled with seeds).

The three species remained in the same territories in spite of the structural changes due to selective removal of mature trees, that North Nandi Forest had undergone. The encroachment of characteristic forest-edge bird species into the interior points to the need for the total protection of this forest.

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Director, National Museums of Kenya for providing us with a Land Rover and to the Director of Wildlife Conservation and Management for permission to conduct research in North Nandi Forest. We are also indebted to Nathan Gichuki, Teresia Schiffter and Dr Colin Ryall for their assistance in the field. Thanks also to Mrs Fleur Ng'weno and Mr Kamuya Kimeu for lending us their tents; and to others for help in many ways.

### References

- BROWN, L. H. & POMEROY, D. E. 1984. The age structure of wild birds in tropical Africa, as demonstrated by plumage characters and marking techniques. *Proceedings of the Fifth Pan-African Ornithological Congress* 1989: 97–119.
- DOWSETT, R. J. 1985. Site-fidelity and survival rates of some montane forest birds in Malawi, south-central Africa. *Biotropica* 17: 145–154.
- FRY, C. H. 1980. Survival and longevity among tropical land birds. *Proceedings of the Fourth Pan-African Ornithological Congress* 1976: 333–343.
- HANMER, D. B. 1987. Getting older in Malawi. *Safring News* 16: 73–78.
- PIPER, S. E. 1987. Blue over green, yellow over metal, is alive and well and ten. *Safring News* 16: 79–81.

Cecilia M. Gichuki, National Museums of Kenya, Department of Ornithology, Box 40658, Nairobi and Dr Herbert Schifter, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Erste Zoologische Abteilung, Burgring 7, Postfach 417, A-1014 Wien, Austria